



## ***Cotton/Soybean Insect Newsletter***

**Volume 6, Issue #8**

**Edisto Research & Education Center in Blackville, SC**

**23 June 2011**

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### ***Pest Patrol Hotline***

If you do not have access to this newsletter but want the information contained herein each week, there is a toll-free hotline for insect problems updated here. I will update the short message weekly for at least as long as the newsletter runs. Call the free number **(877) 285-8525** and select the messages you would like to hear. Select #3 for the Southeast, and select #1 to hear my message. The hotline is sponsored by Syngenta.

### ***News from Above the Lakes***

Randy Cubbage, county agent covering Lee, Kershaw, and Sumter Counties, found kudzu bugs in soybeans in Lee County this week.

### ***News from Below the Lakes***

Tommy Walker, county agent covering Hampton and Jasper Counties, found eggs and several stages of immature kudzu bugs in kudzu in Jasper County late last week.

### ***News from the Piedmont/Upstate***

Jay Crouch, county agent in Newberry reported this week that he has found kudzu bugs/bean plataspid in soybeans in Newberry County again this year.

### ***Cotton Situation***

As of 20 June 2011, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office had our progress at about 98% of the crop being planted, slightly behind where we were last year at 100% and the 5-yr average of 99%. About 10% of the crop is squaring, compared with 14% last year at this time and 16% for the 5-yr average. Temperatures have remained high – it was blistering HOT this week! Beneficial rains have fallen, but we are in desperate need of more, with 83% of the state ‘short’ or ‘very short’ on moisture. It is pretty depressing. Speaking of depression, can you say “tropical depression”? Sure, I knew you could. The overall soil moisture levels in the state were described as 25% very short, 58% short, 17% adequate, and 0% surplus. Conditions for cotton were reported as 4% very poor, 19% poor, 43% fair, 34% good and 0% excellent. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

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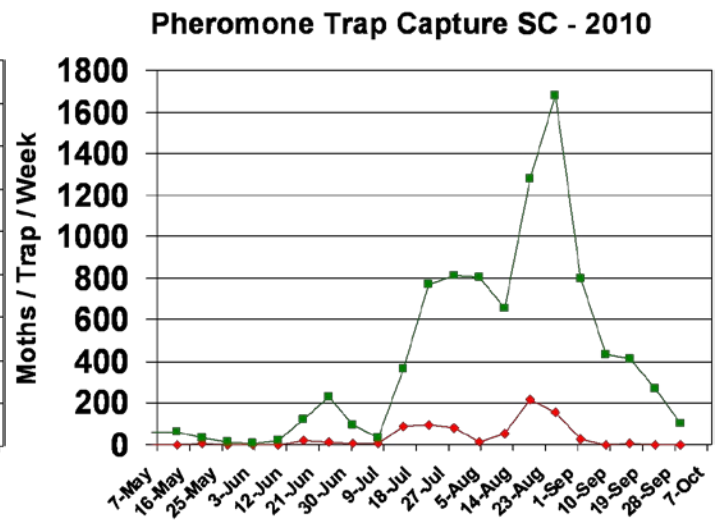
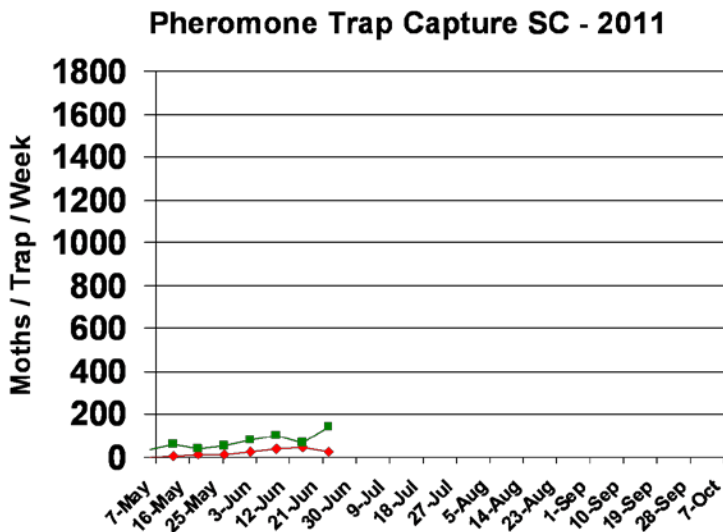
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## **Bollworm & Tobacco Budworm**



Captures of bollworm (BW) and tobacco budworm (TBW) moths in pheromone traps at EREC last season and this season are shown below. Numbers are similar, and our captures have started to increase – how high with they go this year? Tobacco budworm continues to be important for our soybean acres and for a limited number of non-Bt-cotton acres. I provide these data as a measure of moth activity in our local area where I use these data as an indication of moth presence and activity near my research plots. The numbers are not necessarily representative of the species throughout the state.



## **Cotton Insect Control Guide**

Clemson University Publication IC97 (Cotton Insect Management) has been revised for 2011 and is available free from your local county office. It is also available online at:

<http://www.clemson.edu/psapublishing/pages/ENTOM/IC97.PDF>

## **Soybean Situation**

As of 20 June 2011, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office had our progress at about 87% of soybeans as planted, slightly behind where we were last year at 89% but ahead of the 5-yr average of 82%. About 71% of soybeans have emerged, equal to last year and slightly ahead of 67% for the 5-yr average. Conditions for soybeans were reported as 7% very poor, 30% poor, 45% fair, 18% good and 0% excellent. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

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## Kudzu Bug/Bean Plataspid

The kudzu bug (a.k.a. bean plataspid), *Megacopta cribraria*, continues to spread in SC and the Southeast. We have it confirmed in 45 of 46 counties in SC. ***It has been found on kudzu and/or soybeans in these counties, but it will feed on legumes in general, so it could be on other hosts, and it might be present but yet to be detected in other counties.*** Because we have almost confirmed the presence of this species on a host plant in every county in SC, I am now asking that all wanting to provide information about occurrence of this species inform me if they are observed in any crops, particularly soybeans. ***Please email me with reports from soybeans in all counties not reporting them in the crop previously – see map below.***



Eggs



Nymphs



Adults



Kudzu bugs/bean plataspids are showing up in soybeans right now. Be on the lookout for newly developed adults moving from kudzu to soybeans. I took this photo (at right) this morning in some MGIV soybeans I planted on 9 May that are at R2 (blooming) now and very attractive to the bugs. We had over 200 bugs/25 sweeps. At this point, we do not have any solid data on thresholds (the species was first reported in soybeans in GA in July of last year), but we are conducting those trials now. Insecticide trials from last year indicated that the species is susceptible to various insecticide classes, so control is possible; however, re-infestation could be an issue with potential multiple sprays during the season.



We'll see what happens this year with our on-going research efforts. We should have more good data on thresholds, yield loss, insecticides, etc, after this season. If you have not seen the bugs above yet, just wait.

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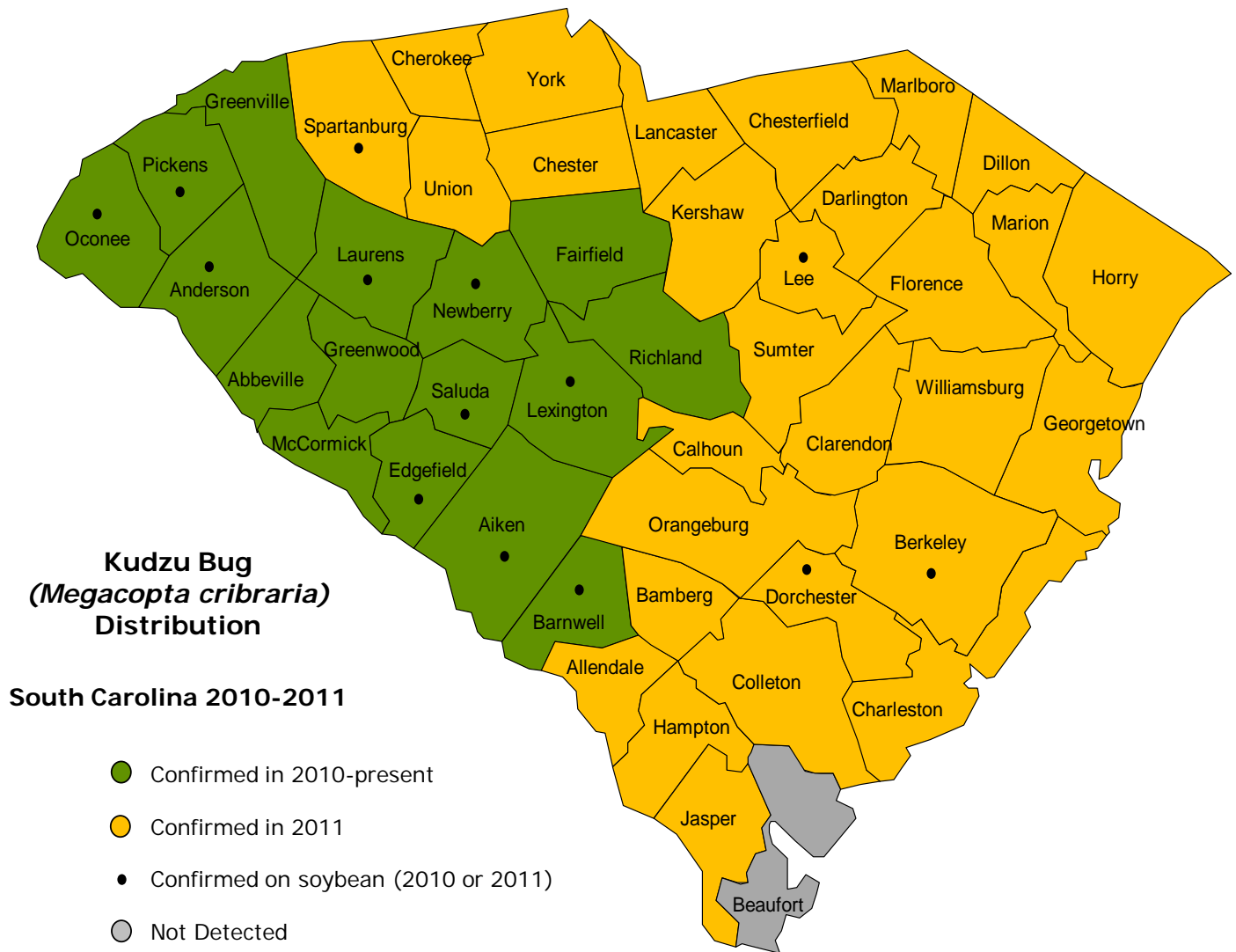
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The latest known distribution of the kudzu bug in SC is represented below. We have just 1 county remaining (Beaufort) from which the insect has not been reported as established on a host (mostly kudzu). We are now documenting the presence of the species on soybeans (counties with dots below). Some were observed in soybeans last year, and many more will be observed on the crop this season. The kudzu bug has now been confirmed in more counties in GA and in 34 counties in NC as of this week. That is represented on the map of the Southeast (next page).



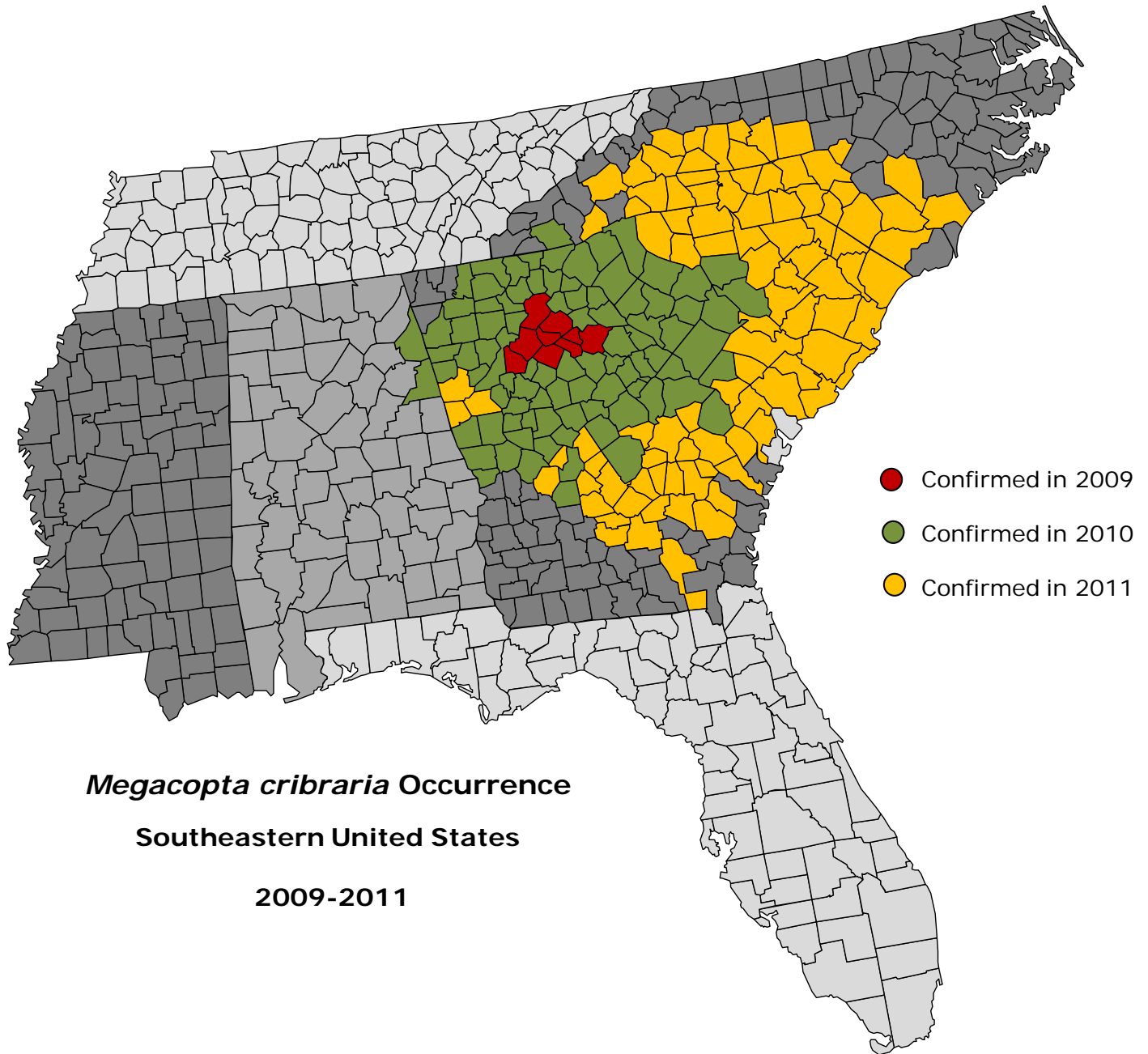
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Map courtesy of Dr. Wayne Gardner (UGA).



***Megacopta cribraria* Occurrence**  
**Southeastern United States**  
**2009-2011**

**Soybean Insect Control Guide**

Clemson University Publication SL1 (Soybean Insect Management) has been revised for 2011 and is available free from your local county office. It is also available online at:

<http://www.clemson.edu/psapublishing/pages/AGRO/SL1.PDF>

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### **Pest Management Handbook - 2011**

Insect control recommendations are also available online in the 2011 Pest Management Handbook at:  
<http://www.clemson.edu/extension/rowcrops/pest/index.html>

### **Need More Information?**

Log on to the following web pages to view important cotton management recommendations, data, and historical cotton/soybean insect newsletters:

For more cotton and soybean information:

<http://www.clemson.edu/public/rec/edisto/research/index.html>

For past newsletters:

[http://www.clemson.edu/extension/rowcrops/cotton/pest\\_management/newsletters/index.html](http://www.clemson.edu/extension/rowcrops/cotton/pest_management/newsletters/index.html)

Sincerely,

Jeremy K. Greene, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor – Entomologist



Visit our website at:  
<http://www.clemson.edu>

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